producing fungi, parasiticein-producing fungi, cyrptogein-producing fungi, harpin-producing bacteria, tobacco mosaic virus and Phytophthora fungi; wherein said transgenic plant is stably transformed with a nucleic acid construct comprising the figwort mosaic virus 35S promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of a sequence set forth in GenBank Accession No. D61377 or a sequence having 90% sequence identity therewith encoding a functional WIPK enzyme, said nucleic acid molecule being expressible in a plant cell.

10. (Amended) A method of making a transgenic plant expressing the N gene, having enhanced disease resistance comprising:

a) transforming regenerable cells of a plant with a recombinant DNA construct comprising a figwort mosaic virus 35S promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of a sequence set forth in GenBank Accession No. D61377 or a sequence having 90% sequence identity therewith encoding a functional WIPK enzyme, expressible in a plant; and

b) regenerating a transgenic plant from said transformed regenerable cells, said transgenic plant having enhanced disease resistance to a plant disease-causing agent selected from the group consisting of, tobamoviruses, elicitin-producing fungi, parasiticein-producing fungi, cyrptogein-producing fungi, harpin-producing bacteria, tobacco mosaic virus and Phytophthora fungi.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the DNA construct constitutively produces a WIPK enzyme.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the DNA construct inducibly produces a WIPK enzyme.